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**Talking Points for the SSCI Testimony
by the
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
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In order to discuss the papers you asked about, it is important to understand why the CIA has stopped releasing unclassified analytical reports as Agency publications.

--In such reports methodology and evidence were largely eliminated.

--This gave the impression that our work was superficial, if not incomplete.

--Much time was wasted in dealing with the controversy that was generated.

--Unclassified analysis almost always looked political.

--If a paper's conclusions supported the administration, there were charges we were being co-opted.

--Where they seemed to undercut, there were cries of political advocacy.

--Unclassified analysis threatened sources. If the Agency would publish on one topic, what guarantees would sources have that their information wouldn't be released in another report.

The decision not to publish unclassified analysis under Agency seal doesn't mean that we provide no public information. For example:

--Reference-type publications are still released.

--Data in detail on the Soviet and Chinese economies are still published under JEC auspices.

--It would have become ammunition for all sides in the budget debate.

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--We would have been portrayed by many as active participants in the policy process.

--Without full methodology and evidence, the paper would have been misrepresented and viewed as shallow.

To summarize, I believe the decision to end public distribution of unclassified analytical reports by this Agency was correct. The debate that would have ensued with the release of our dollar costing paper only underscores this belief.

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